

S O M E

Occasional Thoughts

Concerning the *Philosophy*
Original, Principles and Practice of
the Thing call'd a High-flyer.

In a Letter from a Gentleman in London, to his Friend at Barb.

If upon all Occasions to rail at, curse and damn the Low-church-men, Dissenters, and Occasional Conformists, both in Publick and Private, as sanctify'd Hypocrites, and Men of no Conscience; If to promote the Interests of known Jacobites and Malcontents in Elections for Places and Preferments: If to inveigh against the Toleration and Liberty of Conscience, and under the Pretence of Zeal for the Church, to damn the Dissenters by Wholesale, for their Separation, and lay the Fault upon the Government, for being too mild and indulging: If to court Jacobites, Non-jurors, and disaffected Persons, in Private, and to hear 'em with Patience, if not Approbation, revile the Memory of the late King, and upon Occasion, damn the glorious Revolution: If to abuse the Living, and reproach the Dead, for their Virtue, and to tell the World, that if they do but make a Noise about the Church, they are in the right Way; and that the moderate Church-men and Presbyterians are all damn'd: If these I say, are (as they seem indeed to be) the modish and fashionable Critierions of a true Church-man, God deliver us all from such FALSE BRETHREN! *Perils of False Brethren*, p. 8, 9. 4to Edit.

*Quicquid usquam Perfidia & Doli, quicquid Inclémentia Superbiaq;
quicquid Impudicitia & effrenata Libidinis audisti, cui legisti, quicquid
deniq; Impietatis & Morum pessimorum sparsim habes aut habuit Orbis
Terra, totum isthic (id est, inter Viros vulgè vocatos High-Flyers) cumu-
latis vides, aervatimq; reperis. Petrarch. in Epist.*

LONDON, Printed for J. Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-noster-
row. 1710. Where also may be had *Monarchy and Church*, as
explain'd by Dr. Henry Sacheverell, a Poem. Price 1s. A Spe-
cimen of the wholesome Severities exercis'd in Q. Elizabeth's
Reign, on her Protestant Dissenters. Price 2d.

S I R

TO let you see, that a Request from you (back'd with such extraordinary Favours as you have been pleas'd to confer upon me) does, and always shall bear the Force of a Command, I have sent you the following Answer to yours of the 1st Instant, and do with some Freedom (I'm sure with a great deal of Truth and Impartiality) give you my Thoughts of those Gentlemen call'd *High-flyers*, which you desir'd me to give some Description of.

I have drawn their Picture, which (tho' in Miniature) I doubt not has some Lines and Features in it, by which they may easily be discern'd from the more honest Part of Mankind. I confess, indeed, it is none of the most beautiful, or charming; but if you please to accept of it, (such as it is) it's at your Service.

As to the Original, or Pedigree of that Thing call'd a *High-flyer*, Authors are strangely divided in their Judgments about it. Some will have it, that it sprung naturally out of the Dung of a Pope; others run back its Pedigree as far as the Tribe of *Issachar*: But however, I find by the most authentick Records, that the most prevailing, and indeed most probable Opinion is, That it was begotten by a Jesuit, on the Body of some non-resisting Protestant Lady; and it seems indeed to partake somewhat of the Nature and Qualities of both *Father* and *Mother*; tho' it must be own'd, it seems to have most of the *Father's* Blood running in its Veins.

In short, Sir, a *High-flyer* is a Sort of an Equivocal, Heterogeneous, Preternatural, Monstrous, Mungrel Production; for the Thing we call a *High-flyer*, is neither a thorough-pac'd Papist, nor yet a true blue Protestant, but a confus'd Mixture, an unaccountable Jumble and Composition of both.

It seems to have been begotten in a Heat, and brought forth in a Hurry; and therefore you will always find it upon the high Trot, a down-right Tantivy, and (as our old Friend *Harry Care* says) a *High-flyer's* Tongue always runs high Fullum; Bounce and Vapour is his Dialect; he ever turns the magnifying End of the Perspective, and is *Pugnacissimum Animal* (as one of the Antients call'd a Goose) a Creature that can rant and swagger; but let him come to Service, he shrinks and dwindles, and proves a meer Egyptian Reed; which not only deceives, but wounds the Hand which leans upon it. Indeed how should it be otherwise, since his Vanity, Huzzaing, and Swearing, &c. never afford him Time to think? — Thus far honest *Harry*.

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A *High-flyer* is one that dearly loves to hear himself talk Politics, but is ever impatient of Contradiction, and should he chance to lend an Ear to your Argument, if he cannot answer you in your Way, he will immediately have Recourse to his own; that is, to *Billingsgate* and *Railery*, and call you Presbyterian, Fanatick, Republican, and what not.

The Gentlemen of this Denomination, are a Sort of People not much unlike the ancient Scribes and Pharisees, who made a mighty Do about the Tith of Mint, Annise, and Cummin, and at the same Time neglected the weightier Matters of the Law, Judgment, Mercy, and Faith. So our Modern, Hypocritical, Pharisaical, High-Church Zealots, make a mighty Noise and Pother about the Church, *i. e.* the external Rites and Ceremonies of it; which being (even in the Judgment of a *Sasseverell*) but the exterior Fences and Circumstantial of Religion, are (if compar'd with its Internals, and the Fundamental Doctrines and Articles of our Church) in the Judgment of all wise and good Men, of very little Value and Importance.

But Oh the Church! the Church! the Church by Law establish'd! this is the *Sibboleth*, the Watch-word of the Party, and there's Musick enough in this very Sound to supercede the Office of the Organs. But if you ask these noisy Gentlemen, what they mean by the establish'd Church; as to the Generality of 'em, (I mean the High-flying Laity) they will very shrewdly tell you, they mean the Church by Law establish'd, *i. e.* according to the old Story, an Invasion is an Invasion: For, as to the Articles, Canons, Rubrick, or Homilies of the Church, (poor Creatures!) they generally know as little of 'em as the Man in the Moon: And tho' they boast so much of their being stanch Members, and true Sons of the Church, many of 'em trouble it very little with their Presence, unless for the same Reason perhaps, that the old Woman did, who complaining grievously for want of Sleep, told her Neighbour, She hop'd an Grace of God, to make amends for it next Sunday at Church. And it is observable, that these Gentlemen (notwithstanding their wonderful Zeal for the Church) can sometimes with a safe Conscience, even on a Sunday, ply the Bottle, instead of their Prayer-Book, and at other times, with as safe a Conscience slide privately into a *Jacobite*, *Nonjuring* Conventicle, and look as fly, spiteful and malignant, as the most disloyal, malecontented, false Brother amongst 'em.

But however, that these Gentlemen have indeed a mighty Zeal for the Church, and that this their Zeal is without Knowledge too, are equally evident, and undeniable. For how is it they manifest this their flaming Zeal for the Church? Why, truly by such *laudable* and *Christian* Methods as these, *viz.* by whining out with an affected Tone and Hypocritical Grievance, *Our dear Mother the Church, we are and dutiful Sons of the Church, and such-like Embustick Stuff*, which were

it to come out of the Mouth of a Dissenter, would pass for a most *egregious and fulsome Piece of Cam*: By inveigling against and reproaching the Toleration, as illegal, and damning the Dissenters by wholesale, and flying in the face of the Queen and Government for their Mildness and Indulgence.

By amusing us with ringing the Bells backwards, and crying, *Fire! Fire!* i. e. by making false Alarms of the Church's Danger: By swearing, (as is not seldom amongst these Gentlemen) by their Maker, that they are for the Church, and drinking its Health, 'till they destroy their own, and 'till they forget not only where their Parish-Church, but their own Houses stand also. By railing against, cursing and damning the Low-church-men, Dissenters and Occasional Conformists on all Occasions, and sometimes too (Doctor like) upon no Occasion (as on a 5th of November) villifying and reproaching 'em in Publick and Private, as *Fanaticks, Impostors, Sectaries, Upstarts, Enthusiasts, Schismaticks, Neutralists, Atheists, Gallio's, sly Saints, Incendaries, Republicans, Regicides, Monsters, Vipers, sanctify'd Hypocrites, false-hearted Knaves, Adulterers with Christ's pure Spouse, Pagan Beasts, unball'd Guests, Thieves, Enthusiasts, Occasional Loyalists, Latitudinarians, Church-devouring Malignants, Miscreants, excentrick Comets, that burst their Orbs! Renouncers of their Allegiance to their Almighty Sovereign, Deniers of our holy Faith, Wolves in Sheeps Clothing, Blasphemers of the holy Spirit, Refugees from their Saviour, Double Dealers, Temporizing Politicians, Mercenary Converts, Apostates, Tools, Turn-coats, Traitors, profess'd Knaves and Hypocrites! Demons, growing Mischiefs, infectious Plagues, Correspondents with the Devil!* All which truly Christian and Detent Epithets and Appellations, with a long &c. are notoriously obvious in that *Mint of Scandal* call'd, *The Peril of False Brethren. Sparsim per totum.*

But to return, These Gentlemen's Zeal for the Church is farther exemplify'd by their hugging and caressing the most fiery, bigoted Pulpit-Incendiarie, and idolizing a certain empty-headed, contemptible Tool, adoring him as a Saint, making his Health in all Companies a Test of Loyalty to the State, and Affection to the Church, and by quarrelling with, bullying and abusing all such as will not fall in with their Measures.

You may farther know these Gentlemen, by their strenuous asserting the *absurd and slavish Doctrine* of Passive Obedience and Non-resistance, *on any Pretence whatsoever*; by their crying up *Fine Divine, Hereditary Right, and Lineal Succession*; by their boasting, and making loud Pretences of their Zeal and Loyalty to the present Government, and at the same Time, making their Court in Private, to *Jacobites, Non-jurors, and Malecontents*, and in almost all publick Elections, *promoting the Interest of such*; for with these Men, it is a sufficient Qualification, to recommend any Person to a Post of Honour, or Trust, if he does but rail and swear heartily

heartily against the Low-church-men and Dissenters, and make a Noise and Pother about the Church, let him be and do what he will besides: Nay, tho' he has been of a pack'd Jury, is known to be disaffected to the Government, to have endeavour'd to sink the publick Credit at the most critical Juncture, to have been indicted at the *Old Bailey*, committed to the *Tower*, to have been taken up upon Suspicion of abetting and concealing Plotters and Assassins, to have carry'd about in Triumph an insolent Criminal, (who stood convicted of high Crimes and Misdemeanors) in Contempt of the greatest and most august Court of Judicature in the World, to have cheated the C——n, forg'd E——r Bills, remitted Money to *France*, and to be griping and oppressing to the last Degree, &c. Instances of each of which we have had in some Elections within the Memory of Man, to the everlasting Credit of the Electors be it spoken!

Again, Sir, these Gentlemen, call'd *High-flyers*, are a Kind of State Juglers, Men who by a new Sort of Metaphysical Hocus Pocus and Jesuitical Legerdemain, can reconcile the widest Contradictions, and prove that Two and Two make Five; or, which is equally strange, will pretend a wonderful Veneration for the late happy Revolution, and at the same Time affirm, that Resistance, on any Pretence whatsoever, is a damnable Sin, and will tell you, that tho' the Prince of *Orange* came over upon the Invitation of a distressed People, and brought over 14000 armed Men along with him, and invited the whole Nation to join him, and thereupon the Nobility, Gentry, Commonalty, and some of the Clergy too, associated together and took Arms (or at least Jack Boots) against their King, under a foreign Standard, and frighten'd him out of his Three Kingdoms, and that tho' our Church does Yearly thank God for his late Majesty's happy Arrival, and for making all Opposition fall before him, 'till he became our lawful King and Governour, (by Hereditary Right no Doubt!) yet, I say, these Gentlemen will, notwithstanding all this, tell you, that *there was not the least Colour of Resistance in all this Affair, and that the late King disclaim'd the least Imputation of it.*

They also pretend a mighty Zeal for the Support of Her Majesty's Title to the Crown, and for the Succession in the House of *Hannover*, and yet at the same Time openly avow and maintain those very Notions and Principles which do directly and necessarily annul and overthrow that very Act of Settlement which set the Crown on the Head of the one, and has entail'd the Reversion of it on the other. They will also distinguish very nicely, nay, split a Hair, between withstanding Popery and Arbitrary Power, and resisting their Prince, on any Pretence whatsoever; the one they will tell you they have done, and will do again, upon Occasion, but the other is a damnable Sin. They pretend to applaud Her Majesty's Admini-

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Administration in Church and State, call her *Defender of the Faith*, and *Nursing Mother of the Church*, and yet at the same Time tell you the Church is in Danger, and boldly insinuate, that *the Guardianship of our Church and Crown is entrusted in the Hands of false Brethren*, and that *Fallhood always implies Treachery*.

They will also shrewdly distinguish between Toleration and Indulgence, deny the one and allow of the other, and confidently affirm they never heard, or know of any such Thing as a Toleration, tho' Her Majesty has once and again promis'd (*in her Verba*) inviolably to maintain it, and both Lords and Commons have more than once address'd her on the very same Head. So very consistent are these Men with themselves, that they will pretend to approve of an Indulgence to Consciences truly scrupulous; and tho' they represent the Dissenters in General, as Men of Principles so pernicious to Church and State, that they are utterly inconsistent with the Safety of both, yet they can at the same Time, and in the same Breath, in the most awful and solemn Manner, protest before God, Angels and Men, that they have no Intentions to cast any invidious Reflections on that Indulgence the Government has been pleas'd to grant *em*.

In a Word, they abjure the Pretender, and swear to the Succession of the Crown, in the House of *Hannover*, and yet advance such Positions, and set up such a Title to the Crown, as by which (and by which only) the one can ever pretend any Claim to it, and the other must be for ever excluded from it.

Once more, Sir, these Gentlemen are to be farther distinguish'd by their customary drinking disloyal and seditious Healths; such as *Almanza* with a Dash of *Tboulon*, &c. *LIMP**, *Sorrel*, and others of the like Kind: By their commemorating King *William's* Death, under the Term of an *Agreeable Dispensation*, reviling his Memory, casting black and odious Colours upon the late glorious and happy Revolution, reflecting on Her present Majesty, aspersing her best Ministers and Administration, by their rejoicing at, and magnifying our National Misfortunes, and hanging their Ears and looking chagrin when our Affairs met with Success abroad. And here I cannot forbear making one just and surprizing Observation; viz. That tho' it has been a Custom out of Memory, upon the News of Success, or Victories abroad, for the City to express its Joy by ringing of Bells, (especially those of *St. Mary le Bow*) yet they have never rung on any such Occasion, from the Time of *Sacheverell's* pretended Clearing, or Acquittance, till last Thanksgiving-day. It's true, indeed, they have often deafen'd our Ears on particular Party Elections, for imaginary Knight-hoods, for calling of Mobs, and such like laudable and worthy Reasons; but

* Note, By *LIMP* they mean *Lewis, James, Mary, and Philip*. have

have never (as I remember) vouchsaf'd us one Peal, within the Time above-mention'd, for all the great and glorious Successes of our Arms, this Summer, against *France* and *Spain*; which may pass for an undeniable Demonstration of the great Affection of this Faction, and especially of a certain Cap—n, *would be Knight*, to the present Government, and their unfeigned well-wishing to the common Cause of Her Majesty and Her Allies.

But to give the finishing Stroke to this Picture, you must know, Sir, these Gentlemen have of late got a Whim in their Heads, of turning all things Topsy-turvy, of setting the Tail upon the Head, and placing the Daughter above the Mother, for now Church and Queen is the Word, and nothing else will go down; for if any one should pay so much Respect to Her Majesty (the Defender of our Faith) as to say Queen and Church, he shall be sure to be presently stigmatiz'd and noted down as a Rank, Confounded Whig or Fanatick, but it is not very hard to account for this new Turn of Speech, it is but *Cleri ad Exemplum* for the High-flying Clergy (as any one may observe) have of late generally laid aside their wonted Forms of Speech, and have now done praying for Her Majesty (in their Pulpits, whatever they do in the Desk) as over all Persons and Causes, as well Ecclesiastical, as Civil, next under God and his Christ, Supreme Head and Moderator.

These, Sir, are the very Men, who would play the old Game over again, and bring us into the same unhappy Circumstances as their Progenitors have heretofore done. It was this very Practice of crying up the Prerogative of the Crown to such an extravagant Height, and telling Kings, that they are accountable to none but God and their own Consciences, and that their Subjects, under the greatest Tyranny and Oppression, have no Remedy but Prayers and Tears, &c. that was the Ruin of that good and pious Prince, K. *Charles I.* and afterwards of that unhappy, deluded Prince, K. *James II.* 'Twas this very Doctrine that put both the one and the other of these unfortunate Kings upon breaking thro' the fundamental and known Laws of the Kingdom, and subjecting them (and with them) the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, to their own arbitrary Wills and Pleasures, which was a Yoke, that neither these Men, or their Fore-fathers, were able to bear. For nothing is more evident and incontestable, than that in both the above-mention'd Reigns (especially in the last of 'em, which is yet fresh in our Memory) the Men of these very Principles, who when their Sovereign (being wheedl'd and cajol'd into a Belief of their own uncontrollable Will and Pleasure, and that they were not to be resisted, on any Pretence whatsoever, upon Pain of Damnation) I say, when their Prince stretch'd his Prerogative farther than they thought fit, and broke in upon their Civil and Religious Liberties, these Men were the first who practically

confuted

confuted their own Doctrine and profess'd Principles, and yet their King know, to his Sorrow, that their most solemn Protest to Passive Obedience and Nonresistance, were no better than a disguis'd Cant, and that whatever they utter'd of that Kind with their Lips, their Hearts were really very far from it.

And thus, Sir, I have given you a short Sketch of these Men and their Principles. I might have enlarg'd much farther, but the Subject is none of the most inviting, and therefore I shall borrow the Words of a certain *Reverend and most Ingenious* Author (begging Leave to make some small Alteration in 'em, to render 'em a little more *à propos*) and with them I shall conclude; viz.

And what do they mean by all this insidious Cant, but by false Insinuations, and raising groundless Fears and Jealousies, to embroil the Publick, and to bring it into that Confusion, they are suggesting upon others? whether these Men are not contriving and plotting our Ruine, and whether all those false Brethren that fall in with their Measures and Designs, do not contribute basely to it, I leave to every Impartial Man, who wishes the Welfare of our Constitution, to determine.

They are pleas'd now to soften their lewd Principles, and cover their Dangerous Tenets with the Name of Fundamental and Apostolical Doctrines, but what false Practices they have created, and whether these absurd and slavish Doctrines will not again exemplify themselves in the same Broils and Confusions, we shall be convinc'd to our Sorrow, if we do not apprehend, that the old Leaven of their great Patriarchs and Propagators, *Land, Marrying and Sins*, &c. is still working in their present Generation and Offspring, and that this Traditional Poison still remains in this Brood of Vipers to sting us to Death, is sufficiently visible from the dangerous Encroachments they now make upon our Government, and the Treasonable Reflections they have (of late) publish'd upon Her Majesty, God bless Her! to which short Prayer of the Doctor's, I know, Sir, you will join with me in saying an unfeigned and hearty *Amen, and Amen. I am,*

S I R,

With great Respect,

Your humble Servant,

Nov. 13. 1710.

Philobasilissa Mispapay